

We Claim:

1. A sanding system comprising:
 - a) a relatively rigid rectangular backing plate having a pair of opposed parallel ends and first and second opposed surfaces, and provided on said first surface with a handle and means to support a sanding pad on said second surface;
 - b) a deformable sanding pad with rectangular dimensions similar to those of the backing plate and a thickness that is not greater than the shorter of the rectangular dimensions and having at least one sanding surface, wherein the sanding pad further comprises a pair of opposed parallel ends and at least one of the pair of parallel ends comprises a groove; and
 - c) at least one retaining means in communication with the backing plate having a generally L-shaped cross section with a plurality of projections extending from an end of the generally L-shaped cross section adapted at one end to pierce a side of the deformable sanding pad in the thickness direction through at least a portion of the groove.
2. The sanding system according to Claim 1 in which the sanding pad is formed from a resilient open-celled foam.
3. The sanding system according to Claim 1 in which the sanding pad is formed from a polyurethane foam.
4. The sanding system according to Claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the generally L-shaped cross section of the at least one retaining means is generally parallel with at least a portion the groove in the sanding pad.
5. The sanding system according to Claim 1 in which the sanding pad has from two to four sanding surfaces.
6. The sanding system according to Claim 5 in which the sanding surfaces of the sanding pad have different sanding characteristics.
7. The sanding system according to Claim 1 in which the at least one retaining means is formed integrally with the backing plate.
8. The sanding system according to Claim 1 in which there are two retaining means.
9. The sanding system according to Claim 1 wherein the handle is detachable.

10. The sanding system according to Claim 9 wherein the detachable handle is replaced with a pole sanding mechanism.
11. A pad for a sanding system for sanding a surface, the sanding system having a relatively rigid rectangular backing plate having a pair of opposed parallel ends and first and second opposed surfaces and provided on said first surface with a handle and means to support a sanding pad on said second surface, and at least one retaining means in communication with the backing plate having a generally L-shaped cross section with a plurality of projection extending from an end of the generally L-shaped cross section, the pad comprising:
 - a) rectangular dimensions similar to those of the backing plate;
 - b) a thickness that is not greater than the shorter of the rectangular dimensions;
 - c) and having at least one sanding surface;
 - d) the sanding pad having a pair of opposed parallel ends; and
 - e) at least one of the pair of parallel ends comprises a groove.
12. The pad according to Claim 11 in which the pad is formed from a resilient open-celled foam.
13. The pad according to Claim 11 in which the pad is formed from a polyurethane foam.
14. The pad according to Claim 11 in which the pad has from two to four sanding surfaces.
15. The pad according to Claim 14 in which the sanding surfaces of the sanding pad have different sanding characteristics.
16. The pad according to Claim 11 in which the sanding system comprises two retaining means and both parallel ends of the pad comprise a groove.
17. The pad according to Claim 11 in which the pad has a first opposed surface and a second opposed surface offset from the first opposed surface forming a trapezoidal shaped pad.
18. The pad according to Claim 11 in which a portion of the pad under the groove is any geometric shape.
19. The pad according to Claim 11 comprising a first material and a second material.